

# GayCommunityNews

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Susan Fleischmann

## 'Fort Hill Faggots' Lose Homes Arson Strikes Gay Community

By Larry Goldsmith

BOSTON — An early-morning arson attack completely destroyed the Roxbury homes of three former GCN workers on October 11. A total of five people narrowly escaped injury as the blaze, which witnesses say began in an adjacent abandoned house, spread quickly to two homes, one owned by Larry Loffredo and the other owned by George Dimsey and Jesse Balerdi.

Loffredo, a former GCN advertising manager, said he and his lover Ralph Kunkel were asleep in

a back bedroom of the house when Kunkel was awakened by the noise of a fire truck on its way to another fire down the street. Kunkel, smelling smoke, woke Loffredo and the two looked out the window to see the beginnings of a fire in the doorway of the abandoned house. "I called the fire department," Loffredo told GCN, "and said 'Hurry up, the house behind mine is on fire.'"

Loffredo went immediately back to the window. "It was only two minutes later," he recalled.

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## Court Decision Prompts Sex Ed Book Withdrawal

By Jil Clark

NEW YORK — "This decision is a vexing erosion of our First Amendment right to read and publish, and the loss of a superb and enlightened work of sexual orientation for young people," said Thomas McCormack, president of St. Martin's Press, referring to a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision allegedly aimed at deterring sexual abuse of children.

The July ruling prompted the publishers of the popular sex-education book *SHOW ME!* to cease its publication.

"I have no illusions that everyone approves of *SHOW ME!*," said McCormack in a letter to booksellers, "but there are many who feel as I do that it is the best available book for fostering in young people a healthy attitude towards sex."

St. Martin's is recalling from bookstores all copies of the book, which contains pictures of nude children and frank narrative about heterosexuality.

The publishers contend that the high court's opinion in *New York v. Ferber*, a case involving prose-

cution of a distributor of a film of young boys masturbating, is sufficiently "overbroad" that it includes works like *SHOW ME!* among material which is not protected by the First Amendment.

The high court upheld New York law which provides that the showing, sale or distribution of plays, films or books "promoting sexual performances by children under the age of 16" is a felony, whether or not the material is obscene.

In so doing, the court placed "protection of children" alongside "obscenity," "libelous speech" and "speech which is likely to incite danger" as considerations which take precedence over the protection of First Amendment rights.

The decision of the justices was unanimous, although Justices Brennan and Marshall submitted addendums warning that the statute should not be extended to "depictions of children that have serious literary, artistic, scientific or medical value."

In the view of the appellate court, the statute was overbroad

## Cops Raid Blue's Again

By Bob Nelson  
with Reporting by  
Peg Byron

NEW YORK — In a replay of a police raid that took place September 29, eight midtown police entered Blue's Bar on West 43rd Street last Friday, October 8, insulting bar patrons, searching several individuals and beating one man. According to the bar's manager, most of the officers were from the same group that had previously trashed the black gay bar and had assaulted patrons "indiscriminately."

As the police were leaving, one reportedly said, "We made the headlines of the *Village Voice* for breaking up this bar, and we'll break it up again and make the headlines again."

"It was about 10:15 on Friday," said Lew Olive, manager of Blue's. "Eight cops came into the bar with their guns drawn. Only one of them was out of uniform. They had people put their hands up on the bar and they searched one or two, including a woman. One cop went to the back of the bar. We asked him what he was doing, but he was like a mummy. One guy asked him what was going on, and the cop kned him in the balls, hit him in the throat and knocked his glasses off. They left after about five minutes."

Olive then went with bar owner Emile Pensa to the Midtown South Precinct to find out the name of the senior officer in the most recent raid. "They told us a Sgt. Synar was involved," said Olive. "Well, I was in the front of the bar and I didn't see any sergeants. They told us that a report had been called in that there was a man in the bar with a gun. Why did they search a girl, then?" Olive said that the individual who had been attacked was not willing to give his name and had not filed a complaint.

GCN called the roll call officers at both the Midtown South Precinct and at an independent control unit, the Patrol Borough Midtown South Task Force/

Neighborhood Stabilization Unit. Neither had a Sgt. Synar listed, but the Midtown South Precinct did show an Officer Upton, a female officer that Lew Olive reports had visited Blue's the second time. Officer Upton was on patrol and could not be reached for comment.

While police continued their harassment of Blue's patrons, some of the victims of the first raid appeared at 200 Park Avenue South on Monday, October 11, to file complaints with the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), an internal police agency that reviews police actions. The six individuals from the bar were led away from a waiting room to private interrogation by members of the board, who are high-ranking police officers, without the benefit of a lawyer present.

Contacted the day after the interviews, Louis Colon, a bartender and guard at Blue's, told GCN that the interrogations centered on the fact the Blue's cashregister had been emptied during the course of the raid. "They asked me who I saw near the cash register," said Colon. "They were concentrating more on the robbery than anything else. They did ask me if I saw the beatings and I said yes. I also described the beatings. They asked me if I saw the cop's shield numbers, which I didn't, but I described the officers. They asked me if I saw any black cops, and I said I didn't."

"The Civilian Complaint Review Board has never produced a satisfactory result in our experience," said Jay Watkins of the Chelsea Gay Association. "This procedure has never worked when the people from our hotline have pursued it."

Questions have been raised about the owner's willingness to pursue a case that could create a negative image for the bar as a place where patrons are likely to be harassed by police. But activists have also expressed amazement that Emil Pensa, the owner,

was willing to go to the police precinct house or file a complaint at all. The second raid on Blue's seems proof enough that police would retaliate against anyone who tried to publicize or investigate the events in question.

That issue was a major point of contention between gay activists, on one hand, and Chief Patrick Murphy and Mayor Koch's liaison to the gay community, Herb Rickman, on the other, at a meeting on Friday afternoon, October 8, just before the second raid on Blue's. GCN was able to reconstruct much of what happened at the meeting from sources preferring anonymity, but who described the meeting as "unpleasant," and "emotional," and who variously characterized Murphy as both "open," or "out of touch."

GCN obtained a nearly-comprehensive list of participants at the October 8 meeting; most of those invited were affiliated with either a gay Democratic club or with the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights (CLGR), or were Lesbian and gay supporters of Mayor Koch in the recent gubernatorial primary campaign.

"I was really annoyed that I was the only Third World person there besides a Human Rights Commissioner," said Joyce Hunter of CLGR. "I certainly don't represent all Third World people. I'd like to know what the criteria were for representation at the meeting."

Chief Murphy and Herb Rickman maintained that no investigation could be pursued until complaints were filed with the Civilian Complaint Review Board and individuals who had been victimized came forward to make formal accusations. (Rickman was unavailable for comment about the filing of CCRB complaints on October 11.) But many of the gays and lesbians present objected that such openness was a luxury that black gays and transvestites could ill afford. "This whole procedure is a terrible burden," commented

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## Show Me!



A Picture Book of Sex for Children and Parents  
Photography and Captions by Will McBride  
Explanatory Text by Dr. Helga Fleischhauer-Hardt

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# News Notes

## quotes of the week

"Don't ever tell a person an uncomfortable truth if you can find a way to avoid it. Be sure to examine your motives if you feel that you must voice the unpleasant facts."

"The exercise of gum chewing is good for the jaw line, but the perpetual motion of the vibrating jaw must be a PRIVATE operation. Only a cow can chew in public and look bright."

"You cannot have too many pairs of white gloves. For this reason, they are a gift idea which can never go wrong — provided you know the correct size."

— Cinderella in "Let's Discuss 101 Ways to be More Attractive," the textbook of the Cinderella Career and Finishing School, formerly at 167 Tremont Street in Boston, GCN's new home.

## temperamentally unsuitable

LLANGOLLEN, Scotland — A house parent at Berwyn College has been fired for being a lesbian.

The girls' college had received a number of anonymous phone calls saying that Judith Williams is a lesbian. When asked by her principal whether these assertions were true, Williams answered truthfully. According to a report in *Gay Scotland*, the principal gave no indication that this was unacceptable until one week later, when Williams was asked to resign because her lesbianism was "too political an issue." She was told that if she resigned she would be allowed to work her notice and be given a reference.

Williams, whose work performance had gained her the highest praise and a recommendation for a promotion only one week before she was sacked, refused to resign. After being fired on the grounds that she is "temperamentally unsuitable," Williams has decided to sue her former employer. She has received support from gay organizations and the Employment Protection Appeal has donated 500 pounds.

Checks are welcome at the Defend Judith Williams Campaign, 123 Greencroft Gardens, London, England, NW6 3PE.

## talk back

BOSTON — Boston's Lesbian and Gay Media Advocates (LAGMA) announces the publication of their book *TALK BACK! The Gay Person's Guide to Media Action*.

The book grew out of LAGMA's experience with media. It tells how Lesbian and Gay People can effect better media coverage of their lives. Included is practical "how-to" information for assessing media services and responding to media coverage.

The book's publication coincides with the third anniversary of the October 1979 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Because LAGMA was formed in direct response to the poor and inaccurate coverage of the MOW, the book's publication also marks LAGMA's third birthday.

*TALK BACK!* will make its public debut at a publication party at New Words Bookstore, 186 Hampshire Street, Inman Square, Cambridge, from 2 to 5 pm on Sunday, October 17, 1982. LAGMA members will be present, and the community is invited.

For more information, call (617) 876-5310.

## poor judgment

WASHINGTON, DC — The number of women judges has dropped drastically since Ronald Reagan became president.

According to the *Washington Post*, of the 72 judges Reagan has named to federal and appellate courts since he took office, all but four have been white men. Three women were chosen to be federal court judges and one black judge was elevated to an appeals court.

## referendum panel

BOSTON — Public funding of private schools; the reinstitution of the death penalty; public determination of nuclear waste disposal sites; limiting the nuclear arsenal; and the recently passed bottle bill. All these issues and, in some legislative districts, more, will appear before Massachusetts voters this November. All but the nuclear freeze referendum will be binding.

The Massachusetts Solidarity Coalition is hosting a panel of speakers who oppose the death penalty and the use of public funds for private education and who support increased public control over radioactive wastes, the maintenance of the bottle bill (which is supposed to become law on January 17), and a nuclear weapons moratorium. The speakers will include Joe Feaster, president of the Boston chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Carol Doherty, president of the Massachusetts Teachers Association; and Jean McGuire of the Boston School Committee.

The event is scheduled for Tuesday evening, October 26, at 7:30, on the University of Massachusetts Boston campus, 100 Arlington Street, near the Arlington Street T stop. For more information, call (617) 354-0008.

## free men meet

GARDEN CITY, NY — The Coalition of Free Men and Adelphi University will co-sponsor a conference on men's issues on November 6.

Edwin Donovan, Director of the Boston Police Stress Program and editor of the international journal, *Police Stress*, will deliver the keynote address: "Stress, the Silent Killer."

Workshop topics will include: "alcohol and drugs," "running a men's group," "male aging and retirement," "men as single parents," "can women and men be friends?," "the effects of feminism on men," "why is sex so bad when it feels so good?," and "can being open to another male be hazardous to your health?."

Registration is \$25 through the mail, \$30 at the door. For more information, contact Jay Smith at Adelphi University, Department of Education, Garden City, NY 11533, or call (516) 294-8700, extension 7550.

## women pay twice

PARACHUTE, CO — The relationship between unemployment and wife battering is well-understood in this town, where the Exxon Company recently abandoned a shale-oil drilling project, leaving 2,000 people jobless. In the following month, reports of wife-beating rose by more than 3,000 percent — from one per month to more than one daily.

## jail rapes probed

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MD—Rape and sexual assault in the Prince Georges County Detention Center will be the subject of a Grand Jury investigation, the state's attorney, Arthur Marshall, Jr., told the *Washington Post* recently.

The county grand jury will examine 12 cases described in a series of articles in the *Post* in which rapists related their crimes and male victims detailed the assaults.

Marshall commented, "When you have statements of crimes in which people admit to criminal behavior on the front page of the newspaper, you have to do something."

Most of the victims of rape or sexual assault who talked to the *Post* reporter said that they had not brought charges against their assailants for fear that the jail guards could not protect them from retaliation. In other cases, victims said jail guards or police had discouraged them from bringing charges against the rapists. Still others said they were ashamed to bring rape charges in court.

Most of the victims of the rapes and assaults in the jail have not been convicted of any crime, reports the *Post*. They are awaiting trial, some on charges such as shoplifting, driving while intoxicated and trespassing.

In an editorial published on September 29, *Post* editors called for the implementation of a policy of "separating violent from nonviolent detainees" at the prison, "not because some 'deserve' to be raped while others do not, but because it will allow jail officials to concentrate attention on those most likely to be violent."

Nevertheless, the prison's director, Arnett Gaston, said he will not institute the change, nor will he increase the number of guards who watch male inmates or the number of times daily that a group of guards walks through the cell blocks. Guards patrol the cell blocks once every eight hours to count inmates and occasionally respond to emergencies.

Gaston, who is quoted as saying, "one sexual assault is one too many," said that the "fundamental problem" is overcrowding in the facility, which was built for 143 people but currently houses 450 men and women. That problem will be alleviated in a month, he said, when 100 inmates will move into a temporary facility that will house those charged with misdemeanors.

County Circuit Court Judge Vincent Femia criticized Gaston for stating that fewer than ten rapes occur each year in the jail. "The ship's going down," said Femia, "and he's on a bridge perfectly dry and doesn't know why everyone's gurgling."

County Council member Parris Glendening, the leading candidate for county executive, said that if elected he will keep Gaston as director of the jail only if he "subscribes to my philosophy of moving toward zero incidents [of rape and sexual assault] . . . [W]e have to get away from the mentality that this is the normal course of prison life."

## getting free

SEATTLE, WA — A book for battered women has been published by a social worker here.

Ginny NiCarthy says her manual, *Getting Free: A Handbook for Women in Abusive Relationships*, is intended to assist women who are either unable or disinclined to go to a shelter or counselor. "It's silly to think that a month in a shelter will fix a woman up," NiCarthy maintains.

The book is available at many women's bookstores or through Seal Press, 312 South Washington St., Seattle, WA 98104.

## rape laws revamped

CHICAGO — Illinois feminists are giving qualified support to the efforts of some state legislators and the state's attorney to increase the conviction rate and ease prosecution of rapists, reports *Chicago Gay Life*.

House Bill 1746, which easily passed the House and will be taken up in the Senate this fall, would create two categories for rape instead of the present one. Aggravated rape, defined as rape in combination with a dangerous weapon, additional bodily harm, another felony, concealed identity, forcible entry into a dwelling or a victim under 14, would be a Class X felony under the new bill. Class X is the highest level of sentence, with a minimum of six years, of which at least three must actually be served in prison.

Rape would become a Class 2 felony, a probationable offense.

Additionally, "deviate" sexual assault is redefined as either a Class X felony of aggravated criminal sexual assault or a Class 2 felony of criminal sexual assault.

The bill's sponsor in the House, Rep. Aaron Jaffe, said all rape cases could be prosecuted under his bill, but the additional classification would encourage prosecutors to try weaker cases.

Also, the Rape Study Committee, a House advisory body chaired by Jaffe, has made many recommendations for reform of state rape laws. Among the proposals which have been adopted are: free hospitalization for victims; a rape shield law, which prevents a victim's sexual history from being mentioned in a trial; and several laws designed to protect children from sexual abuse. A bill to fund victim assistance programs was recently vetoed by Gov. James Thompson.

Meanwhile, at the office of the Cook County State's Attorney, a package of legislative changes aimed at easing prosecution of rapists is being put together. Julie Hamos, assistant state's attorney and head of the office's Women's Issues Subcommittee, said that the staff wants to change the language of rape laws to reflect the new understanding that rape, like other so-called "sex crimes," has to do with violence, not sex. "Our goal is to repeal and replace ten laws on the books. It is not piecemeal," she said.

Hamos said the state attorney's staff will present drafts of its proposed legislation to anti-rape groups as well as other state attorney's offices for feedback.

With respect to Jaffe's proposed "rape staircasing," some activists and legislators are concerned that such a law would result in more lenient treatment of rapists. Polly Poskin, director of the Illinois Coalition of Women Against Rape, commented, "The issue of classes of sex crimes has stirred a lot of controversy in the anti-rape movement. Is one rape more severe than another? Yet judges and juries often want to make a judgment on severity. We need to educate that rape is rape, but it might not be possible to prosecute and sentence under just one class."

Poskin added that, while Jaffe is "respected and appreciated for his work," his staircasing bill still places the burden of proof too heavily on the victim.

## dowry deaths

NEW DELHI, India — Old Indian tradition permits in-laws to kill a bride if they are dissatisfied with the dowry being offered by the bride's family.

Indian officials have discovered that 19 such murders were committed in the first half of 1982 in this city alone, and so-called "dowry deaths" occur as often as every other day in all of India, according to *Chicago Gay Life*. Although the nation outlawed dowry murders 22 years ago, no one has ever been punished for the crime.

## hope for herpes victims

HELSINKI, Finland — Test-tube research here indicates that a cottonseed oil extract used as an experimental male contraceptive in China can kill the genital herpes virus and the microbe that causes gonorrhea, biomedical researchers recently said.

According to a preliminary report on the work of Dr. Tampani Luukkainen and associates at the University of Helsinki, published in *The American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, gossypol prevented the herpes simplex virus type 2 from causing infection.

Preliminary clinical trials aimed at using gossypol to combat genital herpes in humans are underway, said Dr. Sheldon Segal, director of population sciences studies at the Rockefeller Foundation.

The *New York Times* reports that an estimated 20 million Americans have genital herpes, a painful disease for which there is currently no cure. Gonorrhea, which is often not accompanied by symptoms in women, makes tens of thousands of U.S. citizens sterile each year.

The work of Dr. Luukkainen is supported by the Ford Foundation and the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID).



# NAMBLA Holds Conference in Philadelphia

By Marc Killinger

PHILADELPHIA — The North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) held its sixth membership conference during the weekend of October 9 amidst bitter controversy its presence had engendered in the local lesbian and gay community (see accompanying article).

The conference was attended by 65 out of a total of 650 members and by 15 observers from throughout the United States and Canada. Much of its energy was focused on internal reorganization and the setting of priorities, but there were also major discussions on youth liberation and ageism in the organization, age of consent and attendance at a NAMBLA-sponsored forum on sexual free-

dom Sunday evening.

Although little time was devoted to the subject in general except regarding how to restructure the organization, it was clear that the increased police surveillance and legal harassment of boy lovers was on the minds of many at the conference. While it was announced at the beginning of the conference that three NAMBLA members who had been under threat of prosecution or arrested for relations with minors were now free, the estimate by one member of at least 5,000 men in jail for similar offenses was generally agreed upon. NAMBLA came under concentrated attack beginning last July and several steering committee members are now in jail. Outgoing spokesper-

son and founder Tom Reeves said he felt that "the FBI had set out to destroy NAMBLA in the same way they set out to destroy the Black Panthers and the Socialist Workers Party. It's the same issue."

The conference, held in Philadelphia's Center City at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, was under surveillance Sunday afternoon by men taking pictures and using what appeared to be a listening device. One of the same men was seen passing the center as the conference ended on Sunday. Reeves said early in the conference that it would be "an introspective one which would concentrate on what internal structure would be best in light of the FBI harassment."

Shortly after the opening announcement, NAMBLA held its first closed executive session ever to iron out undisclosed financial and other conflicts.

Most of the Sunday plenary session was devoted to discussing proposals for restructuring the organization. In the end a new steering committee and set of new officers were elected rather than any radical new structure, and some restrictions on the officers' ability to make decisions without consulting the membership were passed. Newly elected spokesperson Floyd Conaway said after the conference that NAMBLA "had made a lot of progress in renewing our spirit and democratic process." He said that the geographic distribution of steering committee membership was significantly broadened and that newer people had risen to leadership positions in the organization.

In addition, the 20-member steering committee worked on Monday to implement a plan for topic-oriented working groups to address a variety of areas decided on during the conference. The most popular topics included:

1) Supporting each other, sharing information and reaching out to isolated individuals.

2) Financial planning and security.

3) Developing a vision of what NAMBLA has to offer society.

A resolution was passed that reaffirmed the goals and purpose of NAMBLA. According to the constitution, these include "building a support network for men and boys involved in any mutually consensual relationship, educating the public on the benevolent nature of man/boy love, cooperating with the lesbian, gay and other movements for sexual liberation and supporting the liberation of persons of all ages from sexual prejudice and oppression."

No additional resolution regarding age of consent laws was brought before the plenary on Sunday after Saturday's small-group discussion process resulted in virtual consensus on keeping the organization's position unchanged. Some members had come to the conference hoping to get the organization to adopt some minimal age of consent at puberty mostly for practical and strategic reasons, since more people can accept sex between

teenagers and men than between boys and men. Others wanted NAMBLA to endorse pedophilia more strongly. There was general agreement, however, with the position David Thorstad spoke for in a conference discussion paper: "NAMBLA would not be subject to less oppression from the state if only it would join the con game of 'Pick an Age of Consent.' We should support any lowering of existing ages of consent . . . but we should always point out the limitations and the injustice of it for those under the age . . . The entire concept is based on property rights, not protection, and it is NAMBLA's position that the children should not be the private property of anyone . . . It would dilute our message, which is that the state stay out of consensual sex."

Reeves added in an interview that the NAMBLA position is basically a sexual freedom position. "We affirm that sex is good, in and of itself," he said, "as long as there is no coercion or violence of any kind, and no psychological manipulation either, or misuse of authority; all those are wrong. But they have nothing to do with sex. Those things can be done in any field of life; you can do it sexually, you can do it in terms of learning, in teaching, you can do it in terms of being a policeman . . . As far as sex in and of itself, we believe it is good, healthy, natural for everybody . . . The issue of consent is real but to make the issue of consent a sexual debate is what's wrong."

Reeves said that NAMBLA has emphasized that most of its members relate to teenagers rather than young boys and hence that it does not call itself a pedophile organization, but takes a "radical position" on sexual freedom, including the rights of pedophiles.

Two of the three teenaged members of the outgoing steering committee spoke on a panel about youth liberation and ageism in NAMBLA. One young man detailed the goals of youth liberation in general, including the problems of "over structuralization" of young people's lives and the need to reform schooling and to free youths from parental power. Both discussed concrete ways that NAMBLA could be more open to young people's points of view.



Speakers at the forum on sexual freedom held in conjunction with the NAMBLA conference. Dan Tsang

## Use of Gay Center For NAMBLA Meeting Sparks Controversy

By Marc Killinger

PHILADELPHIA — The holding of the North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) conference in this city provoked sharp debate and much dissension within the gay and feminist communities and marked the first time the issues of man/boy love and age of consent had come up for some time in Philadelphia.

An article on the controversy with the heading "Boy Love Convention is Protested" appeared on October 11 in the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, the day after the conference. The publication of the article was delayed by both a brief, unrelated strike at the paper and by the intervention of an informal group of gay men and lesbians who have developed contacts at the paper over the last few years.

The immediate controversy began when a letter dated September 16 and signed by Rosalie Davies for the board of Custody Action for Lesbian Mothers (CALM), Inc. was sent to the board of directors of the Lesbian and Gay Community Center of Philadelphia (LGCCP). The letter protested that making the facilities of the Center available to NAMBLA was "anti-woman, anti-child, anti-gay," since NAMBLA was presumably meeting to "advocate a reduction in the age of consent," a goal the letter said "is abhorrent to us as feminists" since it would "legalize a serious and all-too prevalent form of child abuse." Davies enclosed a copy of a page of the 1981 Annual Report of the Philadelphia Crime Commission that

discussed the prosecution of NAMBLA and said that while "these investigations may constitute harassment and may be groundless . . . law enforcement officials will be monitoring this meeting. The public eye will be cast upon the LGCCP."

This letter was followed by other letters that expressed concern similar to those of CALM. Roberta Hacker, executive director of Voyage House, Inc., noted that "the Philadelphia lesbian and gay community [via established advocacy organizations] has to date failed to establish any viable public policy focusing upon the comprehensive needs of gay and lesbian youth" and said that "through its affiliation with NAMBLA, the LGCCP in essence will support the stereotyping of lesbians and gay men as child molesters."

This last concern was echoed by Eromin Center Executive Director Tony Sylvestre, prime organizer of the Human Rights Campaign Fund. He was concerned that the *Inquirer's* coverage would slow sales of tickets to the Fund's benefit cocktail party and dinner to be held on Wednesday, October 13, two days after the article appeared.

Another letter, from Tacie Vergara, co-chair of the National Association of Social Workers Women's Issues Task Force of Pennsylvania, seemed to sum up the position of the coalition that came together in opposition to the NAMBLA meeting. "I firmly believe," wrote Vergara, "that almost all cases of a sexual relationship between an adult and a child

constitute child sexual abuse . . . By totally ignoring questions of issues of dominance and power [the NAMBLA position] amounts to nothing more than advocating greater sexual license for men."

In addition to the many letters in opposition to the board's stand, it received several in support of its position. The founder of Gay Fathers of Philadelphia noted that "CALM's protest of NAMBLA's intergenerational love seems to repeat the same unfounded fears that are voiced by many of the wives of gay fathers when they protest our rights of visitation and custody." He asked that "NAMBLA be given a separate, single-purpose public forum at the LGCCP."

Ed Hermance of Giovanni's Room expressed his concern that "the public, including lesbian activists, is willing to believe the most unbelievable assertions about gay men and boys," and said that "in the six years I've been at Giovanni's Room I've talked with several hundred men and boys who claim they had intimate relationships . . . I believe they care about each other as profoundly as two adults care about each other." He said he was "proud of the Community Center for providing space for NAMBLA to conduct a business meeting" and that NAMBLA had "given us the opportunity to air our views on man/boy love."

A meeting between representatives of the Community Center and the coalition opposed to the NAMBLA conference took place a few days before the previously

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## Blue's

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one activist. "How are these people supposed to come forward when they know the cops will retaliate?"

At a meeting organized by activists to prepare for an October 15 demonstration, many questioned the necessity of obtaining a permit from the Community Affairs Department of Police Headquarters. It was finally agreed that some good faith effort should be made to comply with the law, and Silvana Moscato, a lesbian lawyer from Philadelphia, was appointed to investigate the matter. As *GCN* went to press, it seemed likely that a permit would be obtained without difficulty.

A Third World caucus had met separately from the planning committee to discuss participation in the march and rally. Some activists had been concerned that the white gay movement was appropriating the issue of Blue's as an excuse for a demonstration, while the question of police racism and the fate of the victims at Blue's were shunted to one side. "Our consensus is that we want to keep the whole issue of police brutality up front," said Lydell Jackson of Black and White Men Together. "I think our visibility will help to address that issues, though of course it's not something that we

can resolve in a meeting or a demonstration."

While activists planned for a forceful demonstration on the incidents at Blue's, three investigations into the events were proceeding. The Civilian Complaint Review Board should report a finding within a week or so, though gay activists were not optimistic that the finding would be a fair and impartial one. Chief Micky Schwartz, borough commander of Manhattan Police, told *GCN* that his office was conducting an investigation, though no conclusions had been reached. And David Rothenberg said he would make a report on Blue's to the Human Rights Commission, and was trying to contact Lew Olive to see if any of the victims of the beatings would be willing to file a formal complaint with the commission.

Yet, as the meetings and investigations proceeded, there was a sense among some activists that an opportunity had been missed, and that all the hubbub about Blue's would eventually die down, with relations between gays and police settling into a familiar pattern of watchful waiting. "A few years ago, we would have been out in the streets the night those beatings happened," said Joyce Hunter. "What's happening to our movement?"



# Editorial

## Pornography and Property Values

The Massachusetts House of Representatives passed a new obscenity bill last week, largely as a pre-election response to a controversy arising out of the recent opening of an "adult bookstore" in the town of Stoughton, 15 miles south of Boston. The bill, as reported in last week's edition, would ban the retail sale of sexual devices, narrow the focus of "community standards of obscenity" from the statewide to the county level, and allow cities and towns to use local zoning laws to restrict the operation of so-called "adult" businesses.

A group of people from among the 27,000 residents of Stoughton went to U.S. District Court in an effort to prevent the opening of the Times Square Book Store. The court ruled, however, that First Amendment protections of free expression, in this case, the right to disseminate pornography, would have to take precedence over the concerns of some people for "decency."

Decent Stoughtonians probably won't be spending many of their decently-earned dollars in the Times Square Book Store. If news accounts in the Boston *Globe* and the *Herald American* are accurate, most Stoughtonians are just such decent folk. One might say that the residents of Stoughton could solve this problem with an application of the laissez-faire capitalism so prevalent in the political rhetoric of our day and which, curiously, seems to enjoy its greatest popularity among just the sort of person who rails against smut. If that's not enough of an economic weapon, the court has upheld the right of the townspeople to picket the shop, a right guaranteed, not incidentally, by the First Amendment.

Some will undoubtedly argue that the issue is moral, not economic. However, an editorial in the Boston *Globe* supporting an earlier version of the bill reveals an assortment of fears having little to do with morality. "The Times Square Book Store may be a clean, neat, well-lighted operation," the *Globe* declares. Its owners may have taken every precaution to keep youngsters out and prevent 'sexually explicit' material from getting into the wrong hands. Still, a dirty bookstore can hurt property values, at-

tract an undesirable element and adversely affect other businesses in the area."

Not surprisingly, the *Globe's* concerns for the interests of business do not extend to the proprietors of "adult" bookstores. The editorial supports the imposition of fines up to \$35,000 on booksellers convicted of selling "indecent" material.

It is particularly troubling that the *Globe*, which as a newspaper owes its very existence to First Amendment freedoms, should so carelessly compromise those freedoms to the interests of business. The *Globe* finds consolation in the alleged specificity of the statute: "A book or a magazine," the editorial continues, "can't be judged obscene unless it appeals to the prurient interest of the average person, applying the contemporary standards of his or her community; unless it depicts or describes sexual conduct in a patently offensive way; and unless it lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific merit."

That such definitions are ultimately meaningless and subject to abuse is evident already in assumptions made by the *Globe's* editorialist, who writes: "After all, pornography . . . isn't girlie magazines. It isn't harmless. Pornography is cruel, vicious, demeaning, violent . . ." This approach toward selective application of the First Amendment is both ingenuous and alarming. If "girlie magazines" aren't pornographic, then why is *Show Me!*, an illustrated, educational kids' book about sex which has recently been taken from the bookshelves (see the article in this issue)? Presumably "girlie magazines" means publications such as *Playboy* which have earned acceptance not through a finely tuned sense of decency, but through financial success.

It is the lack of answers to questions like this — and the undesirability of authoritarian standards by which they might all too easily be answered — that necessitates the guarantee of freedom of expression. Only an absolute guarantee of First Amendment freedoms can protect us from those who would hide their concern for property values behind the more respected aim of "decency."

## Community Voices

### reason and metaphor

To the Editor:

"If you've ever taken flagyl to treat intestinal parasites, perhaps the ten days of nausea, depression, and foul taste in your mouth have taught you something about risks, responsibilities and self-love!"

— Ron Vachon, *GCN*, 8/1/81

I would like to respond to several of the more serious distortions in Michael Bronski's article, "Aiding Our Guilt and Fear" (*GCN*, 10/9/82).

Bronski criticizes early researchers for focusing on poppers — "a favorite target" — and on what these researchers "perceived to be 'unique' behavior among homosexuals." One paragraph later, however, Bronski finds it "curious that one of the most reasonable assertions — that long histories of VD and other sexually transmitted diseases can cause AIDS — is not followed to its logical conclusion: that drugs used by the medical community to cure these infections are causing damage to the immune system."

On the one hand, Bronski is criticizing researchers for their concerns about nitrates, which were regularly used by a great majority of the epidemic's gay victims, which have been used only in recent years and with relative rarity outside the gay community, and which have been associated with immune-deficiency in some laboratory experiments. On the other, he wants these same researchers to indict the medications that have been used for decades to treat not only sexually transmitted diseases, but countless other infections in vast numbers of nongay men and women as well as in gay men. Bronski calls these assertions "reasonable" and "logical" even though the antibiotics to which he is referring have not been associated with immune-deficiency. Nor have they been used any more discriminately by the gay community than by other populations. Flagyl, for example, has been extensively used to treat amebiasis and other infections in a broad cross-section of Americans, especially American women, and in third-world nations. At the present time, there is, in short, no more reason to suspect the antibiotics that Bronski is so quick to indict than there is to suspect cigarettes, alcohol, coffee, or aspirin.

With the same "logic," Bronski later criticizes me for claiming that "although no evidence exists, so far as we know, to lay direct blame on any drug, activity, place of residence or other factors as the causes of AIDS, there is *tentative* evidence to suggest that risk factors *may* include frequent sexual encounters with a variety of partners." For this statement, which was originally printed months before the date attributed by Bronski, I am accused of contributing to the incorporation of "popular notions of morality into a scheme of trying to understand and combat the disease."

For the benefit of those sexually active gay men in urban centers who are currently at *highest* risk for the development of AIDS, let me quote from the preliminary guidelines for Risk Reduction and Prevention that have been prepared and endorsed by representatives from the following groups: AIDS Task Force of the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, AIDS Task Force — New York City, National Gay Health Education Foundation, Inc., National Coalition of Gay

STD Services, Kaposi's Sarcoma Clinic — San Francisco, Gay Men's Health Crisis, New York Physicians for Human Rights, Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, American Association of Physicians for Human Rights, and the Department of Health of New York City.

"Although we do not yet know all of the ways AIDS can be acquired, an individual's chances of developing AIDS increase with the number of different sexual partners."

Among those of us who continue to earnestly believe in sex revolutionary ideals, respect for the risks of uninhibited sexual freedom for health and hygiene continues to grow. How sexual freedom and sexual health can be made to complement rather than conflict with each other is probably the most difficult but important question now facing the sexual liberation movement. Meanwhile, we are *all* deeply worried about erotophobia, in all of its ugly forms. And we have been for some time. Bronski's references to the history of illness as metaphor may in fact be similar to those who have been following the epidemic in the pages of the *Advocate*, *Christopher Street* and the *New York Native*. Written more than a year ago, "Cancer Signs" (*Christopher Street*, 10/81) was in fact the first such exploration of Susan Sontag's essays, in the context of the current epidemic, to appear in any publication. *Beyond* our concerns about homophobia, however, Bronski's reporting leaves the reader with a very dangerous misconception: that defining "sex with many different, especially anonymous

partners" as a risk factor for AIDS has little to do with increasingly certain medical *reality*.

It is clear from *GCN's* decision to wait more than a year (not counting the months that have elapsed since the tragic fire) before presenting a feature article on AIDS, a disease that has killed more than 150 gay men, that hindsight is easier if not better than foresight.

Lawrence Mass, M.D.

New York, NY

Editor: Just for the record, while this is the first article in the features section, there have been various news articles dating back to coverage of the first report in the Morbidity and Mortality Report, over one year ago.

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## Withdrawal

*Continued from page 1*

"studiously ignored sex ed books . . . and it isn't at all clear that *SHOW ME!* is one of the books they have in mind to protect. In fact, they didn't mention it, although it was before them in oral argument . . ."

"So we can't tell. The only way to find out is to get convicted [and appeal to the Supreme Court]. So we're not going to risk it. That's exactly how a chilling effect works. There will be books that will never get published, so those cases will never get to the Supreme Court."

However, Greg Loken, senior staff attorney at Covenant House, a Catholic shelter for runaways located near 42nd Street, called the recall of *SHOW ME!* "a publicity stunt."

"The fact of the matter is that the book could be sold without violating the statute. The courts here [in New York State] have said so. There's only one picture in it that could possibly be seen as a violation of the statute: a boy holding his penis who might be said to be masturbating."

Gainsburg responded that, given the history of the book, it is reasonable to anticipate that the book would be challenged successfully under laws like the New York statute which have cropped up in 20 states since the Supreme Court ruling.

"*SHOW ME!* has already been challenged under obscenity statutes in Oklahoma, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Canada. In each case, it was dismissed on the grounds that the book is not obscene. But our feeling is that, if they are going to go after the book when it is necessary to prove it is obscene, certainly they

will go after it when there is no obscenity requirement."

Bob Doyle of the Freedom to Read Foundation of the American Library Association said that librarians across the country are wondering whether they should follow the example of the publisher and remove the book from their shelves.

The foundation filed an amicus brief on the side of Ferber before the Supreme Court, along with St. Martin's, the American Book Sellers Association, the Association of American Publishers, the Inter-

national Periodical Distributors Association, and Association of American University Presses, the American Civil Liberties Union and other proponents of free speech.

Filing briefs on behalf of the state of New York were Morality in Media, Citizens for Decency Through Law and Covenant House.

Loken said that the high court ruling "will eliminate a great deal of abuse of children in connection with pornography." He said he

*Continued on page 10*

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# Catch the Fire Gay Spirited Music in Queen City and Northeast

By John Zeh  
 "There are those who  
 want to set fire to the  
 world  
 We are endangered  
 There is time only to work  
 slowly  
 There is no time not to  
 love"

— Deena Metzger

Individual, personal growth has always been a predominant goal of the five-year-old Cincinnati Men's Network, but the group also recognizes the need for outreach to others and political action. Like other such groups across the country, the anti-sexist, pro-feminist organization tries to integrate personal and political issues that have their roots in sexism.

Its members have joined picket lines of women outside a store's display depicting females as whipable masochists. Some joined gays and lesbians protesting Hollywood's treatment of homosexuality in films when *Cruising* and *Windows* opened here. Others greeted anti-gay Anita Bryant when she visited Indianapolis and this "Queen City."

Last month, the Network invited the public to a showing of the film *Men's Lives*. Members regularly provide childcare (and new role models) for other groups' gatherings so women may attend. And, an Acquaintance Rape Project run in conjunction with Women Helping Women is underway in area schools.

The Network's foremost way of attracting more members and attention to its goals are concerts. Its most ambitious endeavor is set

for Saturday, October 30, at Memorial Hall.

Jon Messinger, a three-year veteran of the Network and a University of Cincinnati geography professor, put together an ad hoc coalition of feminist and gay groups to sponsor a performance by Jamie Sieber and Charlie Murphy. The Seattle-based musicians are on a nationwide tour to promote Murphy's recent LP *Catch The Fire*.

Profits from the event will be shared by the Crazy Ladies Bookstore Collective and Gay Community Switchboard. The split will be made on a scale that reverses the discrimination women face in the workplace. The "womon-operated" store will reap 59% of the take, reflecting the percentage of pay they take home compared to men. The male-operated switchboard (which provides information, referrals, and telephone counseling) will get 41%. The service also serves as the Greater Cincinnati Gay Coalition's hotline for reporting incidents of street violence against gays and police response.

"Concerts are the best way to expose large numbers of people at one time to the ideas behind feminism and concerns men have for doing away with sexist oppression," Messinger told GCN. "This music expresses the philosophy behind the Men's Network. Concerts are a way of attracting a lot of people who we don't get through other kinds of activities. And, besides," he smiled, "concerts are real exciting fun."

The Network started in fall 1977 as a "men's movement" began gathering momentum around the country, questioning the values and rewards of their power and exploring new ways of men relating to each other and to women.

The Queen City effort was formed as the positive response to the women's movement with a clear focus against sexism to "men's liberation" groups seeking to solidify the position of males.

Anywhere from 10-25 men attend monthly potluck discussions. Future ones planned for fall and winter include talk about men's movement music and sexism (Oct. 31), couples, work and careers, women's view of sexism in Cincinnati, homophobia, and a day of fun and non-competitive games. There are large percentages of gays, non-gays, and bisexual participants. The group's annual two-day retreat is planned for mid-April.

The October 30 concert will provide a rare opportunity to hear two performers who are less commercial and more political than most mainstream musicians, Messinger said. "We consider Jamie and Charlie cultural workers with really no other place they can express themselves. They're doing very important work within the broader movement, so it's important that people support them."

The national gay *Advocate* called Murphy a "latter-day troubadour" with a "rocking rhythm reminiscent of some of Pete Seeger's songs."

In an interview, Murphy ex-



"There is healing in the singing of our songs." Musicians Charlie Murphy (R) and Jamie Sieber tour the Northeast, appearing in Cincinnati October 30 and Cambridge, MA, November 8.

plained that "the focus of my music is connecting the oppression of gay people and my own to the oppression of women, people of color, old and young people and doing that by being a very out and sissy man. It's real important to present the image of a gay person on stage and in life singing and talking about black prisoners, chicanos, United Farm Workers, nuclear power, all different issues."

Through music, he said, "You can hold out a vision of what we could move toward. We need to sing songs which express our experiences now, the problems we

all face, and lend solidarity to struggles against them, but also try and hold out a vision of where we want to move toward. Unless we do that, we won't get there."

"The system," he said, "is not going to fight for our rights. We have to do it for ourselves. I want a planet (free of nuclear disaster) I can be gay on."

Ms. Sieber began playing cello when she was seven, learning both orchestral and solo works. She's developed improvisational skills by exploring connections between music, politics, and spirit. She helped organize and performed

*Continued on page 11*

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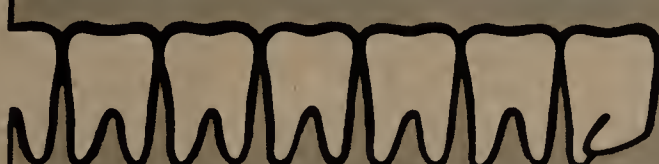
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## MOOD SWINGS:

By Christine Madsen

Mood swings. You know, one minute you can't wait to see your lover, and the next you'd rather read last week's *TV Guide*.

Maybe you've wondered if there isn't some way to do something with all the alternating foaming and slumping that are the hallmark of a good mood swing. Five Boston women have found the answer for themselves is to put those swings on stage.

They call themselves (what else?) the Mood Swings, and they perform original theater pieces about addictions, pieces which are cleverly crafted to shepherd you through some of the joy, anger, fear and relief that are part of dealing with addictions.

Their first work, *Recovery Road*, is a collection of scenes about women realizing, dealing with, and recovering from addictions. Their second

... humor is very important. To take yourself too seriously is almost as devastating as the disease of alcoholism itself."

soon-to-be-premiered work, *Hand-Me-Downs*, is a two-part play built more on a story line dealing with family issues and addictions, both blood families and lesbian-community families.

The lesbianism of the characters is presumed, which immediately moves the action beyond coming-out situations and right into other facets of lesbian existence.

The four actors, Liz Hjeltness, Karen Kirby, Alice Levine, and Cheryl Gamar, and director Blitzen Carol Young, have all dealt with addictions in their own lives. Some of them are recovering from one addiction or another, and others are dealing with ways in which their lives have been affected by the addiction of someone they were or are close to.

Watching them perform will forever destroy any misconceptions that alcoholics are all Bowery types. In fact, only four percent of all alcoholics fit that stereotype. Most alcoholics are still living a "normal" life. And a disturbing number of them are lesbians and gay men.

Some experts estimate that one out of three homosexuals are adversely affected by alcohol; either their own drinking is out of control, or their lives are affected by another person's drinking. Disturbing figures, yes, but not really surprising in a society which has branded homosexuality a sickness and thus far quarantined lesbians and gay men in a subculture which revolves around bars.

But this sounds preachy, which the Mood Swings definitely are not. They are fun. They are serious. They want to tell you about addiction, but they want to entertain you while they do.

Take, for example, the opening scene of *Recovery Road*, where each of the actors is happily and ignorantly sating her particular addiction. One chain smokes; another inhales chocolates; a third drinks coffee by the potful; while the fourth cannot look up from her soaps. Their total dedication to their addictions is presented in outrageous caricature, leading the audience to the unavoidable conclusion that addiction isn't limited to alcohol, and, like dandruff, runs in every family. Everyone sees him or herself in this first scene.

Or consider the closing scene of *Recovery Road*, where God (under the pseudonym "Higher Power") appears in all His/Her glory as a three-



person backup band, complete with doo-wahs and satin jackets, warbling pop song choruses that somehow come across as cosmic truths.

These moments are interlaced with painful ones: a woman realizing her drinking is out of control, or trying to explain her addiction to an unsympathetic lover, or choking back waves of terror and anger at an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.

Both the humor and the pain work. It's almost as if the Mood Swings have lifted pages out of an alcoholic's diary. And indeed they almost have, since most of *Recovery Road* draws on their own experiences.

In one scene, Liz plays a woman going to her first AA meeting. She so hates being there that she is slowly and carefully shooting each person in the head.

"That's all true to life," she says, "every single thing about going around and shooting people." It was her reaction to her first AA meeting.

"*Recovery Road* came a lot out of that deep personal need to get our stuff out and take a look at it. It was cathartic," adds Cheryl.

"We take a lot of our material from real life, experiences we have had or other people we know have had, and we stretch it, we look at it from a lot of different angles, we play with it, we pull one side of it out and leave it there, then pull the other side out."

It is a very intimate way to put together a play. "I've been more vulnerable with this group in some respects than I've been with lovers," says

Blitzen. "You have your own insides and then you put them out and see them enacted and it's like a bombardment of senses and feelings coming at you."

Although *Hand-Me-Downs* is a more formally structured play, it too was put together in this collective fashion. Working with a rough story line and some character sketches, the Mood Swings have spent the last year and a half on the script. At each rehearsal, Blitzen sets up a scene, filling in the background and suggesting the direction the scene should take. The actors then work out the details, swapping roles around, exploring character dynamics and the intricacies of the situation.

Blitzen calls it "working from the issue outward." She watches for what kind of feelings are behind the improvisations, and what kind of insights into the characters emerge.

At this particular rehearsal in Liz's living room, Rachael, a sober alcoholic (one who has stopped drinking and is "recovering") is talking to her best friend Sarah ("They may or may not become lovers; we haven't decided yet," says Blitzen) about her sister Jessie and Jessie's lover Terry, who Rachael fears is an active alcoholic (one who is still drinking). Each of the four actors tries each role, confusing who's who from time to time. Sarah is the most problematic, Blitzen explains, "because we just made her up last week."

It's a bulky way to work, but, judging by the fury with which Blitzen scribbles notes as the

scene progresses, it is an effective one. It allows the actors' addictions perspective and Blitzen's strong theater background to work together to the best advantage.

Beside their personal involvement with addictions, Liz and Cheryl have professional experience with alcoholism recovery programs, and were at one time members of the Amethyst Women collective, a group which organizes drug and alcohol free social events for recovering alcoholic lesbians and their women friends. But, as all four are quick to point out, they are not omniscient on addictions.

"We're still learning about other addictions, like food and work," says Karen, "and we're still learning about ourselves. It's a topic we continue to learn about and to feel. We're not telling people how to react to what we're performing, but to give them some information that maybe they can use, maybe they can't."

All of the actors have had a bit of previous acting experience in various workshops and classes. It was in one of these classes in 1979 that Alice got the idea for the group which became the Mood Swings. She was frustrated by the lack of meaningful content in the classroom exercises, and wanted to put together a skit of some kind to perform at a lesbian alcoholism conference. But the group nearly immediately mired itself in an abundance of material, and sought out a director to help them. ("I thought it was kind of like having a baby to save the marriage," Alice recalls.)

Blitzen comes from a family affected by alcoholism, and so was interested in the Mood Swings. She has had three of her plays professionally produced in the Midwest, and a fourth, about women pirates in the future, will open this January at the Cauldron Experimental Theater. "All my theater is political theater," she says. "The thrill for me is when I see that happening, when I see someone's concepts beginning to change."

She was enthusiastic about what the Mood Swings had done on their own. She put form to their ideas and, long after the alcoholism conference, the Mood Swings and *Recovery Road* made their debut at Oasis, the coffeehouse run by Maxine Feldman especially to give new performers their start. "From that beginning, we came to believe we really could do it," says Cheryl.

The Mood Swings have since performed *Recovery Road* a number of times, both for primarily recovering alcoholic audiences and for "mixed" groups. Most recently, they performed at Somewhere during Lesbian and Gay Pride Week in June. *Hand-Me-Downs* will premier at the Cambridge YWCA on December 5, 11, and 12.

What was it like to perform at a bar on two-for-one night? Blitzen recalls one woman who had automatically accepted the second free beer, but then realized she didn't need it, and gave it away. "She looked at that for the first time."

"We're not only massaging and helping women who are already aware, we are connecting with women who haven't made that first step," she says.

Karen explains a bit further: "We're presenting information in a way that people feel o.k. about and can take it in. It's not a lecture or a meeting."

"A lot of people do feel like they're seeing a reflection of themselves up on stage," says Alice.

At times this identification is especially strong to alcoholics, and it might take someone not connected with alcoholism circles by surprise. Some of the alcoholism in-jokes which are sprinkled through *Recovery Road* seem more devastating than funny to the uninitiated, who must simply trust in the program notes which advise that "affectionately laughing at ourselves is an important part of our recovery from alcoholism."

"The humor in *Recovery Road* is very impor-

## A lesbian theatre group hooked on addictions.

tant," says Liz. To take yourself too seriously is almost as devastating as the disease of alcoholism itself. It's not laughing-at-a-drunk-Dean-Martin humor, but instead it's an at times bitingly funny depiction of the (pardon the expression) mood swings which haunt most people recovering from addictions.

Whether or not you have any interest in addictions, the Mood Swings are worth seeing. The situations in *Recovery Road* and the story line in *Hand-Me-Downs* are themselves enough to intrigue an audience. The works are personal, touching, and highly charged. Almost unconsciously, you absorb the addiction information in them, dispelling any stereotypes you might have, in much the same way gay theater has helped destroy myths about homosexuality.

... Total dedication to their addictions is presented in outrageous caricature leading the audience to the unavoidable conclusion that addiction isn't limited to alcohol...

Although their first priority is to perform more widely in the Boston women's and gay communities, the Mood Swings talk about adapting some of their material to perform in schools, maybe arranging an exchange with the Brown Bag Theater, a similar group in California, and performing for alcoholism groups. Big thoughts for a group of five, all of whom work full-time in other fields.

"We didn't always have this commitment to working together," says Alice. "You get addicted to it," adds Karen.



Blitzen Carol Young, Alice Levine, Liz Hjeltness, Cheryl Gamar, Susan Fleischman





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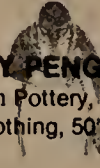
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# Odyssey of a Unicorn

By Nancy Walker

My new boss is a past-master (mistress?) of game-playing who has been curious about me since the first time we met. While I was still working for Jack (my previous boss), Joan repeatedly said things to him like, "I want to get to the bottom of things with Nancy. I want to know her story." That was before a combination of Fate and human frailty conspired to allow Joan to win me in the crap game of life. Now she thinks she has me at her beck and call.

I study her and report at intervals to all of you. Meanwhile, she thinks she's figuring me out. The whole scene is sometimes so funny that I suggested yesterday afternoon we should sell tickets.

It's like a bad movie. She tries to manipulate me. I say, "No." She says, "What did you say?" I say, "No. It's a simple English word." The volume gets turned up loud so the next door offices, where Jack resides, are provided with rare entertainment.

Jack *knows* all about me. We share a common special preference which the current dictator, Joan, knows nothing about. She is quite interesting, sometimes deliberately funny, often tragicomic in that she does and says things indicative of inner mechanisms she either doesn't recognize or refuses to face.

It seems obvious that she has a kind of "crush" on me, which she is blissfully unaware of. She calls me every two minutes when she's in the office, *after* she's given me a whole batch of assignments. I therefore can't get the work done, and she gets upset if I don't respond to all her non-work-related whims. That's not half so bad, however, as the insane jealousy.

One day she was very nasty and I asked, "What are you mad at me for? I didn't do anything." "You like *him*, and that's enough reason for me to be angry." "*Him*, of course, is Jack.

Two years ago for my birthday my sother bought me a radio. Very recently I finally began using it at work. Unfortunately it is not one of the new "walk-person" types, so I use an earplug in order not to disturb anyone else. The music comforts me; I have been devoted to classical music all my rememberable life.

The first time Joan saw me with the radio she said, "Is that on?" (Why else would I have it stuck in my ear?) "Yes." "Oh, you can do two things at one time?" "No, the music is background. It doesn't interfere with my work." Clearly she was annoyed because I had something besides her to focus on. She told me I "looked ridiculous" because I carried the radio around with me. Jealous of a radio???

When she came back from her summer vacation she asked me for several days running, "Did you miss me?" I did not answer. If I said, "Yes," I played into her hands. If I said, "No," I would have seemed unkind. She finally decided for herself. "You missed me." Great. I thought that was the end of it, but every time she's away for a day, she goes through the same routine. "Did you miss

me? Did you miss me?" It dawned on me that I should say, "No," and put an end to the torment. So, I said, "No." Guess what happened? She ignored my answer and said, grinning all the while, "Yes, you did."

How do I deal with that, friends? I never argue the point. The better part of survival seems to be dropping the subject. I drop so many subjects that my toes are bruised.

I am very willing to do my work. I always did that for Jack. And, as some of you dear, faithful readers know, whenever I was finished with the work he had given me, I did my own, mostly GCN-related, tasks. With Joan, however, matters are very different in terms of how I spend my time.

One day, shortly after I began my service to Joan, she noticed that I was typing something that she had not ordered me to type. Immediately all her hackles were a-bristle. "What are you typing?" she bellowed. "A letter to a friend," I answered. (It happened to be the truth.) She was obviously distressed by my audacity. "Don't you have any work to do?" was the next inquiry. "I've done it all," I answered, continuing to pound away at the keys. She instantly found something for me to do.

Joan is a crafty woman. She knows that when she is not in the office, I am going to do whatever I want to do. She also knows that I will do anything I am told to do for work because that's the way I am constructed. She contrives whenever she can to leave me a pile of junk to deal with in her absence so that I will be unable to do anything extra-curricular.

Well, today she is at an all-day meeting. I am unsupervised. She couldn't find anything much in the real world to make me do, so in the closing minutes (after work, really) yesterday she called me over to her innersanctum (she has hidden herself behind a portable room divider which cuts off my air supply and view of the window and which she knew would upset me) and told me she wanted me to "think about something" for her.

"You like to think, don't you?" she asked cutely. Her big assignment was for me to "organize" her. She wants me to figure out a system so that she will be reminded of the tasks (she doesn't do too many) that *she* has to perform, in time to perform them. She said, "I want you to take over my life . . . at least the work part of it." Leading remarks. Frequently made. Lots of innuendo. Lots of reasons to touch me.

I don't want to take over any part of her life. I told her that I was not paid to think for her. "I am paid to do your typing, filing and photocopying."

Then she took out \$10.00 and handed it to me and asked me to buy something to use as a special file for "the organization of Joan." I told her I wouldn't buy it and that I didn't want to be responsible for her money. I left on that note (she had tried to keep me longer, offering me a ride home, but I told her that my

sother was coming to pick me up and I didn't want to keep her waiting) and Joan said she was leaving the money in my typewriter. The money was in my typewriter this morning. I put it in the only cabinet we have here that locks. There is an endless series of such occurrences in which she tries to maneuver me into a particular position. However, if she thinks I am really angry, she backs off and gets coy.

Joan is a closeted type, having lived with the same woman for around seventeen years. They live a chaste existence, but I think Joan must have some inkling of her true nature. She knows I have lived with my sother for twenty years and she just prefers to assume that it is under the same circumstances as her live-in arrangement.

I have wanted to tell her about myself, but Jack said she could, and probably would, turn vicious. My sother is in a vulnerable position; so is Jack. I can't take chances with other people's lives, even if I would be willing to do so with my own.

Joan does not realize why she is so interested in me, why she calls me over to her desk so often for little *tete a tetes*. I don't want to play with her, but it is impossible to be reasonable and adult and candid. So I have come to another plateau of understanding: when a non-gameplayer gets tangled up with a gameplayer, the non-gameplayer either has to convert or lose. The parameters are set up by the more unbalanced, less self-aware person, and the other one is compelled to learn how to cope in a murky alien territory filled with swamps and hiding alligators.

I don't want to paddle around in the tepid waters of Joan's brain, and I have no intention of telling her the intimate details of my life, but she has the nerve to be surprised when I tell her that my sother's mother is visiting. "When did she come?" "Sunday night." "Oh, I didn't know you had company." Why the hell should she know? She's my boss, not my lover, for heaven's sake. It's a never-ending waste of time. I would like to do my work and get on with other, more important, issues, but she won't have it so.

I like Joan, which makes matters even more complicated because I can't simply tell her to leave me alone and insist on a strictly formal relationship. In the department I work for, there is very little formality, so an exclusively business approach would seem unduly icy. There is little chance of my work life running smoothly.

My sother said that I should have played the game and never indicated my intention to write my own things. She was probably correct in her assessment of the situation. I will have to wait and see what happens. Joan is usually good to me but she has very ugly moods on occasion which put her in a very unprofessional light and make me wonder if our relationship is destined to come to a flaming finish. I'll let you know.

## Withdrawal

Continued from page 6

does not believe it will curtail the creation of books or other material of "serious value."

Asked whether he thinks *SHOW ME!* has that value, Loken said he finds it "an extremely tasteless work . . . and I would protect my children from seeing it . . . [B]ut it isn't dangerous [to the children depicted in it] to the extent that justifies [state] intervention."

Is he concerned that adults might use *SHOW ME!* to get sexually aroused? "I think it is a possibility that certain adults with

a slightly deviant sexuality could find it arousing . . . [B]ut this isn't the concern of me or Covenant House. We are concerned about children who are damaged because of being shown in a very personal part of their lives."

He added, "You could show drawings or paintings of children engaged in sexual activity and accomplish the same educational purpose. What you cannot do is show an actual living child."

Loken estimates that, of the one million children that run away each year, "perhaps 30,000" survive by making pornography.

"Being used in producing this material is extremely traumatic. The sexual abuse is heightened by the fact that the child did it in front of a third person with camera lights. And every psychologist I'm acquainted with considers that the exposure after the abuse is as or more harmful as the abuse itself. The injury . . . is prevented from healing. The child is forever subject to having the film brought up and his reputation and peace of mind destroyed."

— filed from Boston



# Birds May Do It, But Cole Doesn't

*Cole, devised by Alan Strachan and Benny Green. Directed and choreographed by Bick Goss. With Gwen Arment, Joseph Billoe, Marcia McClain, Bud Nease, Fred Barrows, Mary Gutzi, Karen Louise Murphy, James Plumb. At the Charles Playhouse.*

By Michael Bronski

As a musical *Cole* has a lot of things going for it: forty wonderful songs by Cole Porter. And a lot of things going against it: Eight people who can't sing or dance very well, terrible choreography, tacky slides projected against a backdrop, and a sense of sophistication and elegance that seems to come more from Porter's birthplace (Peru, Indiana) than the Antibes or the Riviera.

Aside from the limitations of the singing and dancing — which are varying: "I Love Paris" is simply excruciating, while "I'm a Gigolo" is quite pungent and funny — the whole concept and tone of the show seem to be working against the material. It must have seemed like a great idea: take forty Porter songs and string them together with a few facts about Porter's life and times, toss in quotes from the Fitzgeralds and Moss Hart, build some circular steps with platforms and cover them with tin-foil for a deco effect and then just dazzle. The weird

thing about the show is that the performers keep talking about "elegance," "wit," "sophistication," and "charm" while exhibiting none of those qualities.

For a Cole Porter song to work well it has to be tossed off, almost thrown away. Their charm is their effete, diletantish air. Most of the performers here look and sound as though they have just *learned* the music. Instead of a frothy soufflé we're being served two-day-old eggs Benedict. Sometimes the direction is so bad you can hardly believe it. When one of the women begins singing "Laziest Girl in Town" she looks tired, slowly lugs herself up on the piano, lies on her back and then spreads her legs in the air. Hasn't anyone here ever heard of irony? Porter songs call for understatement, not overkill.

During the second act there is much made of Porter's long marriage to his wife Linda. We are led to believe that they were the epitome of a happy, heterosexual couple of the 30's. It is well-known that Cole and Linda had a glittering, attractive and fabulous arrangement. Almost everyone knew that Porter was homosexual (perhaps bi-, but most definitely lots of homo-). Who is this show trying to kid?

Ironically (and thank god

there's some irony here somewhere), it's this very attitude that points out what's wrong with the show. Most of the Cole Porter material — and a great deal of other musical comedy — comes from a gay male sensibility: a flippancy, an amusedness, and a slight world weariness that creates a distance between the world and the art. "Love For Sale" is not to be sung as a lament. Where Porter was risqué *Cole* manages to come up with a leer: someone drops their pants during "Let's Misbehave," most of the group sings "Let's Do It" with a smirk on the face, "Brush up Your Shakespeare" sounds dirty rather than clever. Porter and all the other American expatriates went abroad so that they would not have to deal with what they perceived as the yahoo American sensibility. Poor Cole Porter. After all that champagne on board yachts we get served flat seltzer at a college talent show.

The basic trouble with *Cole* is that it just isn't gay enough — in either sense of the word. If it managed to show a little bit of queenly wit or faggoty style or even a bit of camp, it would manage to get its feet off the ground and fly. Right now, *Cole* is a mess: not delightful, or de-lovely, it's just depressing.

Charlie Murphy and Jamie Sieber will appear in Cincinnati as part of a tour throughout the northeast. The two will appear locally at Ryles, Inman Square, Cambridge, November 8th, as the last of a concert series "New Songs for Women and Men." The first featured musicians in the series will appear next week. Ferron, a woman-identified singer-song writer from Vancouver, will play two concerts (7:30 and 10:00 PM) Tuesday, October 19, at 1st Church, Congregational, in Cambridge. Peter Alsop, a folk-oriented "men's musician" will play the following evening at 8 PM at Ryles in Inman Square. For more information on these upcoming concerts call 547-5704.

men in harmony with women, children, spiritism, and the earth." The founders, which include Murphy, believe "in the power of music, poetry, drama, and other cultural expressions to encourage, challenge, inspire, and unify."

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And celebrate the path we're on  
There is healing in the singing of our songs  
We can all join hands and calm the fears  
And hold on tight and cry the tears  
In struggle and freedom we are one"

— Charlie Murphy

## Catch the Fire

Continued from page 7

with an all-women's folk-blues-a capella trio.

She has played and sung with Murphy for the past three years on two West Coast tours and several Seattle-area shows. Together, they have appeared at lesbian/gay pride rallies. She journeyed to Nashville, Tenn., for the recording of *Catch The Fire* and is a registered nurse involved in women's health care. She was not available for an interview by GCN.

The concert tour is being produced by Gobb Fairy Productions, a group of gay men committed to the development of a healing, life-affirming culture among

## Controversy

Continued from page 3

scheduled annual meeting of the board on Sunday, October 3. At the meeting it was agreed that the coalition could present its demands to the new Community Center board and the board reiterated its policy of providing "a forum for the discussion of controversial issues within our community." It agreed to spearhead the formation of a community-wide committee dedicated to working on the needs of lesbian and gay youth in this city.

Of concern to many of the people this reporter spoke to was the last-minute timing of the coalition opposing the meeting. Last February, the LGCCP board had been split by the issue and approved by only a one-vote margin the rental of space to NAMBLA. When contacted by phone, Roberta Hacker said she learned of the conference from a leaflet distributed at the International Women's Day Celebration last March. In part, the leaflet read, "Sisters, the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia has this week joined the enemy . . . They have gone on record in approving, supporting and providing space for the molesting of our children." It was signed by the "Committee for the Preservation of the Gay Com-

munity Center of Philadelphia, Penn."

In telephone interviews, both Hacker and Davies acknowledged that what Hacker called "a small, articulate population of teenaged boys" who are capable of consensual relations with adults exists, but Davies reiterated that the gay male community has a "complete lack of comprehension around the issue of consent and young people's more general ability to give it." She said she had no interest in participating in a forum on the issue with NAMBLA.

NAMBLA national spokesperson Tom Reeves began work several weeks before the conference on a public forum on sexual freedom to take place after the close of the NAMBLA conference. Similar forums had taken place in Baltimore and Boston in past years. Reeves said it seemed that there was an organized campaign afoot to discourage lesbian and feminist attendance at the forum.

The forum itself was held Sunday night at the Philadelphia Ethical Society on Rittenhouse Square. About a hundred people listened to a series of ten speakers. Chris Bearchell of *The Body Politic*, who moderated the forum, decried the increasingly anti-sex moralism of parts of the feminist

movement and told how events in Toronto had led her to her conclusion. Pat Kuras, Philadelphia poet and writer, told how she both envied gay male sexual freedom and appreciated lesbian romanticism. Robin of Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Youth was the only speaker of those who talked about age and sex to zero in on the domination that can take place between adults and teenagers in sexual and emotional relationships. Charley Shively of Boston's *Fag Rag* spoke in a very personal fashion of the need to reject adult insanity in order to survive in our society. And Tom Reeves got the biggest response for his urgent assertion of NAMBLA's sexual freedom position. Other speakers included Ken Freemont-Smith of Philadelphia's Gentle Strength Men's Collective, George Lakey of Movement for a New Society, Michael Lavery of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Bill Andriotti, a teenager who is a NAMBLA national spokesperson, and Scott Tucker of Philadelphia Lavender Left.

The evening had what one man in the audience called "an exciting, early gay liberation feeling that you just don't get with the politicians anymore."

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# Arson

continued from page 1

"The whole side of George and Jesse's house was on fire." Loffredo telephoned the two and told them to get outside. "The house was not just on fire, it exploded. I heard the phone lines go pfft.

They just fizzed."

Loffredo, Kunkel and another man who had moved into the house just three days previously then ran outside. "By that time, my house was on fire and the front windows were breaking

from the flames," Loffredo said.

Dimsey, Balerdi and three guests had returned home late and were still awake, with lights on and the stereo playing. "We didn't even smell smoke," said Balerdi. When the telephone rang

with Loffredo's warning, the five ran out into the street. "From the time that phone rang," added Dimsey, "it was probably only a minute and a half. Then the whole house was on fire."

The men tried to rouse a neighbor

whose house soon became threatened by the flames. "They were asleep," said Dimsey. "We had to break the window to get them out."

Although the fire appears to

Continued on page 15

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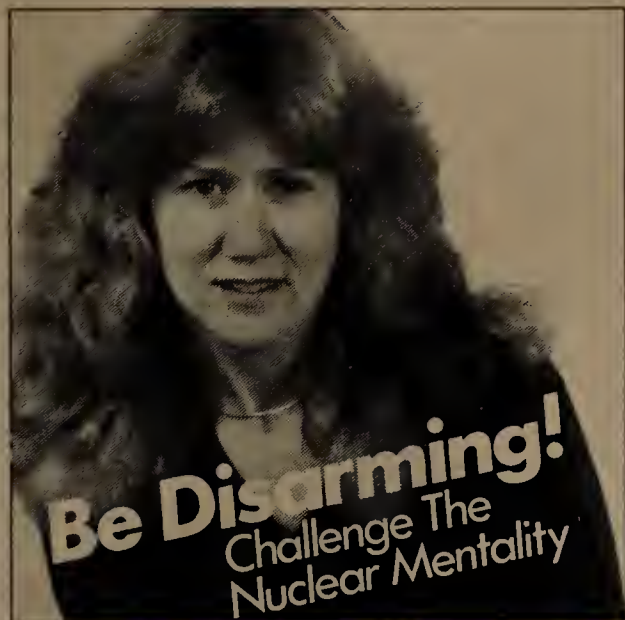


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## NO PLACE TO FILE

If someone out there has a one or two-drawer letter size file cabinet, N. Walker would really appreciate it for the classifieds. Her files went up in smoke, as you are no doubt well aware by now. Please call Mike at 426-4469 and he'll tell you how to get it to us. Thank you very much.

## DEAR KIND READERS

We still need a paper cutter, tape dispensers, 4-drawer file cabinets (used, of course, we ain't fussy), file boxes (12"x12"x5"), and staplers. Please call Mike or Cindy at 426-4469 before you bring or send anything. Thank You very much.

## EX-GAYS

& former lesbians wanted: people who have changed (or who have tried to change) their orientation from homo- to heterosexuality. Your experiences are needed for a GCN article on the subject. Please send first name and way to contact to GCN Box 655. All replies will be held in strictest confidence.

## FOLDING TABLES NEEDED

For the Friday night folding and stuffing crew (sounds good, doesn't it????) and various assorted other entitles, we could use large folding tables. Anyone wishing to give us such items, please call Mike at 426-4469. We love you.

If you wish to respond to a GCN Box number in any of our ads, send to GCN, 167 Tremont St, 5th Fl, Boston, MA 02111, Attention: Classifieds Box

## WE NEED A HOME

within a home, that is. We are arrived, but some of us are either deskless or cramped into inadequate pieces of furniture. For instance, N. Walker would really love another big metal desk like the one that went down in flames . . . but there are many other kinds we could use. Use your Imagination . . . and if you have a desk to throw our way (working out, right?) call Mike Riegler at the usual number: 426-4469. Thanks.

## ORGANIZE US!

Losing our old office unsettled a lot of us, and now we suddenly understand the value of things like desk organizers (those darling little things that keep your pens, pencils, paper clips, etc from going astray) and stacking trays for letters (fan mail, hate mail, outgoing male, in-coming male, oops, well, excuse me . . . ) If anybody wants to bestow such gifts upon us, please call Michael at 426-4469 and he'll tell you how . . . Thanks.

## WE'RE AT IT AGAIN!

Yes, we're asking you for still more help. This time it's to help us move into our new, *permanent* office. It's really a great location, but we have to fix it up and make it look more like home. We need paint, brushes, etc and/or the ability to use them plus carpentry and so forth during the last two weeks in Sept and possibly all of Oct (it depends on how fast we get things done). Also we need strong backs and healthy vehicles to do the actual moving. As usual, Mike Riegler is coordinating this massive effort, and he would like anyone wishing to get involved in the undertaking to give him a call at 426-4469. We all thank you very much.

## MICROFILM READER WANTED

The GCN staff would love to be able to read its back issues on microfilm, but cannot afford to buy a film reader. If anyone has access to a used one or would like to donate one to the office, please call Mike at 426-4469.

## THANKS TO ALL WHO ARE HELPING

Putting an office together from scratch (and soot and charred remains) is a tremendous undertaking. It would be impossible without all those donations of cash, material, and effort that you folks have been giving us. We appreciate it, really and truly.

## WANTED

GM 28 moving back to Boston 10/15 sks rmte situation. Pls call Charles in P'Town 487-3009 or in Camb 497-9463. (13)

## ORGANIZATIONS

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## GAY/LESBIAN AND JEWISH?

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## GAY SWITCHBOARD OF NYC

When you're in New York, give us a call for the latest information in gay and lesbian events, which bars to go to, where to stay, what group to contact, and which businesses to patronize. Call us to rap or just to say hello. (212) 777-1800 from noon til midnight.

New women's media gp committed to lesb. education outreach thru media sks mems. Need assistance w/marketing, graphic design, fundraising, media work. Letter of interest &/or resume to Women's Educational Media, Inc., 36 Colwell Ave., Brighton, MA 02135. 367-2086. (8)

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## NH LAMBDA

A LESBIAN Organization. Box 1043, Concord, NH 03301. Concord: 224-3875, 746-3339; Dover/Portsmouth: 431-1541. CRISIS LINE: 483-2592, Sun, Mon, Wed 6-9 pm. A statewide organization meeting the third Saturday of every month. Support, education and political action, since 1976. (45)

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## FOCUS

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Free lesbian catalogue of books, send two 15¢ stamps. Womankind Books, Dept GCN, 1899 New York Ave., Huntington Station, NY 11746 (516) 427-1289. (12)

GUARDIAN: Independent radical news-weekly. Covers Gay, women and minority struggles, and international progressive movements. Special offer 4 issues FREE. Write Guardian Dept. GCN, 33W 17th St., NY NY 10011. (ex)

Monthly calendar of women's events in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, \$1 for sample issue, \$7.50 per year. Write: Full Circle, P.O. Box 235, Contoocook, NH 03229. (15)

## PLEXUS

San Francisco Bay Area Women's Newspaper since 1974 brings you monthly feminist news, reviews, features, community forum, calendar & more. Subs are just \$8/yr; sample copy \$1. 545 Athol Ave., Oakland, CA 94606. (1/mo)

New Spring lesbian/feminist annotated booklist for \$1.00. Womansplace Bookstore, (GCN) 2401 N. 32nd St., Phoenix, AZ 85008. (41-10x)

## HOW GAY IS YOUR LIBRARY?

Pamphlet of tips for non-librarians on how to get gay materials into libraries, available from the Gay Task Force of the American Library Association. "Censored, Ignored, Overlooked, Too Expensive? How to Get Gay Materials into Libraries" explains library selection policies in a general way, and tells how you can get a library to buy more gay books & periodicals. Also tells what to do if library refuses your request; why gay bks are sometimes kept where you have to ask for them; & how to donate materials to the library. \$1 to Barbara Gittings — GTF, P.O. Box 2383, Phila., PA 19103. Bkstore & bulk order discount available. More info: Barbara Gittings (215) 382-3222. (c)

# Arson

*Continued from page 12*

have been started in the abandoned house, several persons at the scene said they felt the rapid spread of the flames to the occupied houses indicated that an accelerant had been used in a deliberate attempt to destroy all three structures. Although officially the fire is designated only as "suspicious," a spokesperson for the Boston Fire Department Arson Squad said the blaze "certainly wasn't accidental, as far as I can see." That spokesperson would not comment any further on either possible motives or methods but he did tell GCN that "one of our suspects was seen at the scene, not starting the fire, but he was seen at the scene and he'll be up for questioning."

The city of Boston has been plagued by a relentless series of arson incidents in recent times. Last year, 2000 fires were listed as being of "suspicious" origin. A large number of abandoned buildings in the neighborhoods surrounding the site of the most recent fires have burned in the past, but these fires represent the first time in this area that occupied buildings have been torched.

Ian Johnson, a resident of the area, told GCN he thought the arsonists must have known the houses were occupied because lights were burning, the stereo was playing and several people were talking in the living room. "They knew they were risking people's lives," Johnson said. "Whether they intended to kill people, that we don't know. But they knew there were people there."

Several animals from both houses have not been found and are presumed dead. Loffredo said he had not seen his dog Corbin. "We used to have a comic in GCN on Corbin Loffredo," he remembered sadly. "He's a famous

dog."

"My cat died, too," added Balerdi.

Several persons recalled the presence of an unfamiliar man at the scene who seemed aware of details concerning ownership and insurance for the houses. That man, who at first identified himself as an insurance adjuster but later denied that statement, refused to give his name to several persons who asked, including, reportedly, a fire superintendent. One witness told GCN the man had told several neighbors that Loffredo had set the fire himself to collect the insurance money and that it was time to "drive the faggots out."

The fire victims told GCN they are on excellent terms with most of their neighbors and that in fact one neighbor, the neighbor whom they awakened and warned of the fire, defended them against the purported insurance adjuster. Recalled one resident, "[The neighbor] came up to me and said 'I told him that these boys could never have set their home on fire . . . You couldn't find nicer boys in all of the city of Boston.'"

Loffredo and several others told GCN the first fire company took between 15 and 20 minutes to answer the call and that once on the scene, firefighters had trouble extinguishing the blaze because of inadequate water pressure. Fire department spokesperson Bob Marlowe told GCN the alarm was sounded at 3:51 a.m. and that Ladder Company No. 23 arrived on the scene at 3:52 a.m. Marlowe said six more companies were in turn called to the scene, with the last arriving shortly after 4:20 a.m. Water pressure may have been a problem, Marlowe added, "because Boston is an antiquated city."

Fire officials estimated the loss

at \$100,000, a figure they said was high because of the historical value of one of the houses. Loffredo's house, built in 1800, had once been inhabited by the daughter of former Massachusetts Governor John Winthrop. In modern days, the house, like many in the previously affluent area, had been abandoned and left to decay. After the Second World War, minority groups, including gay men, began to move in and the neighborhood became an area of transition. In the early 1970s, a collective of gay men calling themselves the Fort Hill Faggots for Freedom inhabited several houses on the hill. The men rehabilitated the houses and sought to help revitalize the neighborhood. The

collective eventually dissolved, but a substantial number of gay men and a few lesbians now live in the area.

Loffredo had a small amount of insurance on his property, but will not be able to collect anything until all the arson investigations have been completed. Dimsey and Balerdi had no insurance. A benefit pot-luck dinner has been scheduled for Saturday, October 16, at 6 p.m. The address is 8 Linwood Square, on Fort Hill near Centre Street. A \$10 donation has been requested (more if, less if) and people are also asked to bring clothes and other items necessary to getting started again. For more information, call (617) 445-1435. Donations for the fire victims may

be sent to Roxbury Fire Victims, c/o GCN, 167 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111. Make checks payable to "Roxbury Fire Victims."

State Senator Bill Owens issued a statement concerning the fire on October 13. "I urge the members of the lesbian and gay community to assist their brothers in reestablishing their lives and I urge the folks in the straight community to render assistance to our gay brothers as well," Owens said. "My office will continue to monitor this situation. I will be at the fundraiser on Saturday and we are working closely with [arson activist] David Scodras and city officials to bring the perpetrators of this heinous crime to justice."

# Gay Community News at the Theatre

## New Rise of the Master Race

Saturday, October 30  
at the Overland Theatre  
26 Overland St.  
Boston (near Kenmore Sq.)  
Tickets: \$8.00

## Bent

Friday, October 22  
at the New Erlich Theatre  
539 Tremont St.  
Boston  
Tickets: \$12.50  
Reception with the cast to follow.

It's Fall, time to plan those casual dates, evenings with friends, and special nights to remember. And when

you do, think "GCN at the Theatre" and get your tickets quick. It's another way to benefit Gay Community News.

Tickets available at Glad Day Bookshop, New Words Bookstore, and Redbook. Or by mail from Gay Community News.

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Send to: Gay Community News  
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# Calendar

## weekly events

### sunday

**Boston, MA** — Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth (BAGLY) drop-in center for youth 22 and under from 3:30-5pm at Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin St. (Beacon Hill). Info: 497-8282. Please send all BAGLY mail to: GCN, Box 106GY.

**Boston, MA** — Black and White Men Together of Boston meets at 2pm the second Sunday of the month at 57 E. Springfield St. (So. End). Info: Richard 247-3043 or Tom 536-3392.

**Cambridge, MA** — Overeaters Anonymous, lesbian meeting. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass Ave. Sun eves 7:30 pm. DOB office.

**Framingham, MA** — Tricounty Assoc. (Framingham, Milford, Franklin area). Social and support group for gay and lesbian community. Meets Sun. Info: 376-4323 or 473-3529.

**Boston, MA** — Musically Speaking. Women's programming music, ideas and announcements. Call Melanie at 494-8810 with events and comments. (WMBR, 88.1FM) 1-4pm.

**Boston, MA** — Gay and Lesbian Physicians of New England. Second Sundays. 2pm. Info: (617) 482-6874 or 247-5485.

**Keene, NH** — Potlucks and other fun get-togethers for lesbians. First Suns (2pm) and third Tues or Wed (6pm). Info: Keene Klon dykes, Box 261. Gilsum NH 03448

**Concord, NH** — Concord Area gay Youth. support group for youth 16-22. rap session and social time. Carpools & counseling available. Info: Scott or Joe 224-6931

**Acton, MA** — Central Middlesex Social Club meets at 7:30pm. Info: Carlton 486-8177. All are invited.

**Orono, ME** — Wilde-Stern Club. Social/support group for lesbians and gay men. Informal, friendly and open meetings. Peabody Lounge, 3rd fl. Memorial Union, UMO. 7pm.

**Orleans, MA** — Shoreline, a social group alternative to the bars on Cape Cod, meets second Sundays. Info: Box 1614. Orleans, MA 02653.

**Northern VVNH-League of Gays (LOGS) meets third Sun. Info: (802) 626-3618 or write: Box 703, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819**

**Central VT** — Central Vermont Gay Men (CVGM) meets first Sun. of the month for socializing, business and a meal. Info: Box 42, Barre, 05641

**Boston, MA** — Boston's Other Voice. (WROR, FM 98.5) 11:30pm.

### monday

**Portsmouth, NH** — Seacoast Gay Men. 7pm. Info: P.O. Box 1394, Portsmouth 03801.

**Nashua, NH** — Nashua Area Gays meet 8pm. Info: Tony 888-7933, or write: Nashua Area Gays, Box 3472. Nashua 03061

### tuesday

**Brattleboro, VT** — Southern Vermont Lesbian and Gay Men's Coalition meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Common Ground Restaurant, 25 Elliot St. 7:30pm.

**Cambridge, MA** — Daughters of Bilitis. Discussion and social group. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass Ave. (Harv. Sq.) 8pm. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Info: 661-3633

**Pittsfield, MA** — Berkshire County Gay Coalition meets 2nd and 4th Tues. Info: (413) 442-7772.

**Hartford, CT** — Greater Hartford Lesbian and Gay Task Force meets at Hill Ctr., 350 Farmington Ave. 7pm (First Tues.) Info: 249-7691.

**Manchester, NH** — Manchester Men's Group, weekly support group for gay and bisexual men, meets Tuesdays at 7:30pm for coffee and discussion. Info: Joe (603) 224-6931.

**New London, CT** — New London Gay Men's Forum, support group for gay and bisexual men. Info: 447-0155 (Noon to 7pm).

### wednesday

**Boston, MA** — Fathers in Transition, a group of gay/bi fathers meets Weds. for friendship and support. Info: Gay Fathers, c/o GCN Box 6, 22 Bromfield St., Boston 02108, or call Exodus Ctr 266-0612

**Boston, MA** — Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth (BAGLY). New persons' meeting 6:30pm. general meeting and group discussion 7-9pm. For youth 22 and under. Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin St. (Beacon Hill) Info: 497-8282.

**Boston, MA** — Walk-in VD screening and treatment for and by gay men. 6:30-8pm. Fenway Community Health Center, 16 Haviland St. (near Auditorium stop). 267-7573

**Nashua, NH** — Greater Nashua Area of NH Lambda sponsors speakers and/or raps on the second Wed. and 4th Thurs. of each month 7pm. Business meetings on first Sats 5pm. Info: (603) 889-1416.

**Bridgewater, MA** — South Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance meets Weds. Info:

**Hartford, CT** — Lesbian AA meeting. Hill Ctr., 350 Farmington Ave. 8pm. Info: (203) 232-9737 or 742-8203.

**Boston, MA** — Boston Gay Men's Chorus meets every Wed. 6:45-9pm. Community Music Center, 48 Warren Ave. (So. End). Info: 625-3247.

**Cambridge, MA** — Lesbian "coming out" group, new weekly open rap group, is now meeting at Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. (Central Sq.) 8-10pm. Info: 354-8807

**Cambridge, MA** — Daughters of Bilitis. 35+ women's discussion and social group. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8pm. Second Wed. and last Fri. of each month.

**Hyannis, MA** — Lesbian Support Group meets first Wed. of every month. 7:30pm. New members welcome. Orientation, social meetings. Warren Women's Center, 298 Main St. Info: 771-6739.

**Boston, MA** — Lesbian and Gay Media Advocates (LAGMA) meeting 7:30-9:30pm. New members welcome. Help make the media more responsive to our needs. Info: 542-5679.

**Augusta, ME** — Gay/Lesbian AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) meeting. All Souls Unitarian Church, 11 King St. 8pm. Open to all.

**Providence, RI** — Transvestite/transsexual meetings. 8pm. Info: 272-9247

**Hampden County, MA** — Social/Support Group for Lesbians 8pm. Info: Debbie 532-5878 or Julie 532-4959.

### thursday

**Boston, MA** — Boston Area Lesbian and Gay History Project. 7:30pm. Info: 272-9293.

**Somerville, MA** — TV/TS Peer Support Group. Gender Clinic. Info: Martha 666-8280.

**Northampton, MA** — Pioneer Valley Gay People's Alliance now forming. First and Third Thursdays. Info: (413) 586-5979.

**Nashua, NH** — Greater Nashua Area Chapter of New Hampshire Lambda sponsors speaker &/or reps on the 2nd Wed. and the 4th Thurs. at 7pm. Business meetings on the 1st Sat. at 5pm. Info: (603) 883-9228.

**Cambridge, MA** — Lesbian Liberation, an open discussion group. 8-10pm. Women's Center, 48 Pleasant St. Info: 354-8807.

**Boston, MA** — The Mass. Gay Political Caucus meets on the first and third Thursdays at 7:30pm. 755 Boylston St. Rm. 215. New members welcome. Info: 471-8404

**New London, CT** — Lesbian and Gay community at Connecticut College weekly meeting. Discussion, planning and outreach 9pm. Fanning Hall Rm 412. Info: 442-7458.

**Cambridge, MA** — Lesbians with children. Support group. 8-10pm. Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807

### friday

**BOSTON, MA — GAY COMMUNITY NEWS (THAT'S US!) ALWAYS NEEDS HELP SENDING OUT THE PAPER ON FRIDAY EVES. COME BY FOR A FEW HOURS TO OUR NEW SPACE AT 167 TREMONT (ON THE COMMON, NEAR BOYLSTON T STOP) ANYTIME AFTER 6 AND LEND A HAND. REFRESHMENTS AND GOOD TIMES! EVERY BODY WELL COME! INFO: 426-4468. THANKS!**

**Hartford, CT** — Your Turf, a weekly drop-in center for lesbian and gay teenagers. 7-9pm at the Hill Center, 350 Farmington Ave. (upstairs). Sponsored by the Coalition of Sexual Minorities

**Pittsfield, MA** — Weekly meetings of Lesbians United. Info: Women's Services center, 499-2425

**Concord, NH** — Concord's Men's Group meets Fridays at 7:30pm for coffee and discussion. 67 Thorndike St. Info: Joe 224-6931.

**Providence, RI** — Rhode Island Gay and Lesbian Youth meets every Sat. from 1-5pm for youth 14-21 years of age. Info: MCC 272-9247 or Gay Helo line 751-3322 (eves).

## coming events

**Boston, MA** — Boston's Gay and Lesbian Hotline is currently recruiting new volunteers for a late fall training session. Call Ken if you're interested in helping to expand the services of the Hotline. 542-5188 (between 9am and 5pm, Mon thru Fri).

**Cambridge, MA** — "A patchwork of our lives: Women's stories in words and fabrics," features Cambridge women's quilts and their stories, thru Oct 31 at the Gallery 57, at 57 Inman St. Mon-Fri 9-5, Sat 9-8. Also showings of "Let life be yours: Voices of Cambridge working women," a slide tape presentation featuring the stories of 26 older Cambridge working women, every Tues eve at 7pm.

**Boston, MA** — Cauldron Theater Lobby Gallery: Ruth West exhibits original tarot card designs in a cut paper technique. Oct 16 thru Dec 1 at the Cauldron Experimental Theater, 22 Randolph St. (near Dover T stop, off Harrison). On view during performances and by appointment. Opening reception Sun Oct 17. Info: 542-8575.

### oct 17 sun

**Cambridge, MA** — Boston's Lesbian and Gay Media Advocates' book party to celebrate the publication of *Talk Back: The Gay Person's Guide to Media Action*. New Words Books, 186 Hampshire St. (Inman Sq.) 2-5pm. FREE! Refreshments.

### 19 tues

**Boston, MA** — GCN membership meeting to discuss where we've come and where we should go as a national/local newspaper. (We may also take a collective picture for ad purposes. How could they resist renewing with all your fabulous mugs on the "Don't Stop Now!"? At the new space, 167 Tremont St. (above Dunkin' Donuts and the Louls of Boston w/g booteek) near Boylston T stop) 7:30pm.

### 20 wed

**Boston, MA** — Lunchtime for Lesbians? Isolated during the workday downtown? Interested in a lunchtime hangout/discussion group? Initial meeting today at Noon, at 80 Boylston St. (corner Tremont and Boylston) Rm 855 (Gay and Lesbian Counseling Service offices). Info: 542-5188. (Not a therapy group)

**Boston, MA** — Candidates Night: focused on gay issues. Sponsored by Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance and Mass Gay Political Caucus. UMass/Park Square at corner of Arlington and Stuart Sts. Rm 222. 7pm.

**Boston, MA** — Sometimes GCN needs proofreading help on both Weds. and Thurs. If you can help either day, please call 426-4469. Thanks.

### 21 thurs

**Boston, MA** — GCN proofreading. Call 426-4469 if you'd like to help. See next week's news this week!

### 22 fri

**Hartford, CT** — First concert of a five-part series "Changing Men: A Musical Celebration," with Geof Morgan in the Washington Room of Trinity College's Mather Campus Center. 8pm. Info: (203) 233-2818.

**Boston, MA** — Glad Fridays: A reading series of gay and lesbian writers. This week: Edmund White. Glad Day Bookshop, 43 Winter St. (near Park St. T stop). 8pm. \$2.

**Boston, MA** — Be disarming! Challenge the Nuclear Mentality. Join Holly Near, Adrienne Torf, Carria Barton and Susan Freundlich in concert at the Boston Opera House. (No time listed.) Tickets are \$7.50 to benefit the Mobilization for Survival. Integrated for the hearing impaired, wheelchair accessible, childcare provided. Tickets at Ticketron and Orpheum. Info: 354-0008. Performances both tonight and tomorrow night (Sat.)

**Boston, MA** — GCN volunteer night. Come help send out the paper to our subscribers. It's a blast! Refreshments. Come anytime after 8, to our new space at 167 Tremont St. (5th floor), near Boylston T stop. Info: 426-4469.

### 23 sat

**Boston, MA** — Be disarming! See Holly Near ad above under 22 fri.

**Boston, MA** — Chiltern Mt. Club. Gilder adventure and potluck party. Info: Roy (603) 898-1115 (after 8pm).

### 25 mon

**The GO Group, a gay social club, will sponsor a Halloween Dress Rehearsal Party at Hill House, 74 Joy St. at 8pm. Prizes, games, old movie. All are welcome. Refreshments.**

**The deadline for Calendar items is Monday at noon for the following issue.....**